

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006**



**CITY HALL KIVA FORUM
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bachmann called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Berg, Bowers and Hemmingsen

Also Present: Connie James, Cindy Ensign, Vicki French, Valerie Kime Trujillo, and Jan Cameron.

Absent: Vice-chair Reid, Commissioners Fausel and Czapinski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Bachmann called for a motion to approve the March 9, 2006 meeting minutes. Chair Bachmann moved for approval of the March 9, 2006 meeting minutes; Commissioner Bowers seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

EXPENDITURE LIMIT BASE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSAL

Craig Clifford, General Manager of Financial Services briefed the Human Services Commission on the Expenditure Limit Base Adjustment proposal noting that if Prop 402 does not pass, Human Services could be impacted.

Chair Bachmann asked if the proposal would allow the city to hire 115 new police officers. Mr. Clifford said that the proposal would allow the city to maintain the 79 officers that have been hired since 2004 and allow for the hiring of 36 new police officers. He added that if the voters do not pass Prop 402, those new police officers could not be hired. Chair Bachmann asked if emergency services would also be affected if Prop 402 was not passed and Mr. Clifford said yes.

Chair Bachmann asked if people can request an early ballot for this proposal and Mr. Clifford said he believed so. Mr. Clifford added that there is a Q&A and publicity pamphlet on the city's website www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov for review. Mr. Clifford said that this proposition is a common thing that Scottsdale and all other 76 cities in the state have been voting on since 1980. He added that the increase state expenditure limit is necessary now, nearly two decades after the last increase.

SCHOOL PREVENTION SERVICES UPDATE

Marla Abramowitz, Scottsdale Unified School District Prevention Coordinator, provided a brief overview of drug and alcohol prevention services provided in grades K through 12.

Commissioner Bowers asked about the outcome measures of the program that indicate that the goals of the program are attained. Ms. Abramowitz stated that they use discipline referrals, the Arizona Youth Survey, which is completed every two years in 8th, 10th and 12th grade and they are exploring doing parent, staff and students surveys on satisfaction and unmet needs. Commissioner Bowers asked if the Arizona Youth Survey is a self-report and Ms. Abramowitz said yes, the district implements the survey, but Scottsdale Prevention Institute (SPI) collects all the numbers and sends all the data back out to all schools. She added that the survey is excellent because it allows comparisons between state, counties and school districts so that schools can ascertain where they need to focus their energy in their programs.

Commissioner Bowers asked if the Arizona Youth Survey was completed this year and Ms. Abramowitz said yes. Commissioner Bowers asked if the commission could learn the results of the survey. Ms. Abramowitz said that she could provide the district results but not the separate school information without permission from the particular principal.

Commissioner Berg asked what types of programs are given for those in kindergarten. Ms. Abramowitz said that a kindergarten student may have lost a grandparent or have another issue happening at home. The student is then referred to SPI by the parent/school and then they receive a student assessment, attend three sessions of one-on-one with a counselor and attend student groups with peers, so that they can rely on peer support when the SPI counselor is not on campus. She added that the peer support is age appropriate and may deal with issues such as grief and anger management. She stated that SPI might also provide classroom presentations and workshops addressing issues affecting students.

Chair Bachmann asked why the commission could not see the individual results of the survey without principal permission. Ms. Abramowitz said that she did not feel comfortable giving out individual survey results of students; she would rather the principal give those results to you directly.

LIONS QUEST – CHARACTER BUILDING PROGRAM OFFERED AT SCOTTSDALE SCHOOLS

Marla Abramowitz, Prevention Coordinator, provided an overview of Lions Quest, which is a new character-building curriculum presented in Scottsdale Schools.

Commissioner Bowers asked what the receptivity has been with teachers and their already stressed workload. Ms. Abramowitz stated that the curriculum is aligned to state standards so teachers can use this curriculum as a supplement. She added that from Kindergarten through 5th grade there are 60 lessons, so that is 2 per week; a teacher integrates this curriculum, rather than taking away from their current curriculum, although they may give a different lesson. She stated that middle school contains 36 lessons per year, or 1 lesson per week and teachers have stated they could implement the curriculum during their advisory periods. She said after middle school, teachers could integrate into their current curriculum where Lion's Quest would best fit. In addition, teachers have asked that the training be moved to summer and they have done that. Ms. Abramowitz also stated that the district has 33 schools, so implementing this program will take some time.

Commissioner Bowers asked where teachers would implement this program in grades 10 through 12. Ms. Abramowitz said that they would implement the program primarily in the Service Learning groups in schools, so the Service Learning Teachers will teach the curriculum. However, she said that there are only four classes for each school, so they are working on increasing that amount.

Commissioner Bowers asked where the program originated. Ms. Abramowitz said that it was created by a group of teachers who asked: what were kids missing? Therefore, they developed the curriculum, the Lion's Club partnered with the Quest Foundation and the curriculum became Lion's Quest. She added that the Lion's have funded trainings and all five clubs are participating in the Lion's Quest Foundation, which was specifically started for the City of Scottsdale schools.

Commissioner Bowers asked if the program was in any other states. Ms. Abramowitz said yes, the program is international. She added that Hawaii bought the curriculum and has it in all of their schools. She said that 1 million students per year are taught this program.

Chair Bachmann asked to see the curriculum and Ms. Abramowitz said that she would get a loaner copy to Vicki French so that the commission could view it. She added that many of the schools are currently doing the Character Counts! program and that it may seem that the Lion's Quest program will supersede Character Counts! However, Lion's Quest will not; in fact, the curriculum is flexible so the programs can work together. She added that there are certain things within the curriculum that must happen so that it remains research based and the message is delivered, but the potential is there for the programs to work together.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERAGE DRINKING

Officer Scott Williamson, School Resource Officer, provided a brief overview of the legal consequences of underage drinking.

Commissioner Bowers asked what the responsibility of the parents is if they go out of town and their child or children throw a party where liquor is served. Officer Williamson said that the responsibility is left with the parents; however, each instance may have different factors. For example, did the parents leave their kids alone, or are there adults in charge of checking on them periodically? Did someone else at the party purchase the alcohol? Did the parents take the precautions to protect any alcohol in the home from the children's consumption? These and other questions would be taken into consideration before establishing responsibility.

Chair Bachmann said that his students are aware of the Party Patrol, so that means that the program is working. He asked what the prevalence is of the Party Patrol. Officer Williamson said that the patrol is not a regular thing; however, as prom and graduation season is nearing, the patrol may be out more frequently. He added that the Party Patrol is one of Chief Rodbell's projects and it shows kids that there is no tolerance for underage drinking.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PREVENTION SERVICES

Vicki French, Youth and Family Services Manager, provided an overview of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Scottsdale Unified School District. This IGA will allow the city to enter into an agreement with the School District for the purpose of funding student assistance and prevention programs in all Scottsdale schools. This item is scheduled to be heard at the June 20, 2006 City Council meeting.

Commissioner Berg said she was confused about SPI's programs and Lions Quest; are they two different programs with that are dealing with similar issues? Ms. French said that they are two separate programs and that the Lion's Quest program is not under the current IGA; they receive funding from others sources. She added that the School District is still working off the other vendor list for services, although there is some overlap with the Lion's Quest program. She said that the Lion's Quest program is more character building and SPI provides presentations as issues occur; and they are distinctly different programs. She posited that the Lion's Quest program is an evolution, and the result of a long search and review of best practice approaches.

Commissioner Berg asked if both programs are in the district. Ms. French said that for K-12, there 7 hours of services per week in each school for 30 weeks. Currently, the Lion's Quest program is hoped to be implemented in grades 3 through 8 by the next school year.

Chair Bachman moved to recommend supporting the IGA with the Scottsdale School District for the purpose of funding student assistance and prevention programs in all Scottsdale Schools, which will be

heard by City Council on June 20. Commissioner Hemmingsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2006 HUMAN SERVICES FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner/Budget Specialist, went through the current 2006 Human Services Five-Year Plan Update draft with a highlight of revised information. The Commission received an initial draft at the March 9, 2006 Human Services commission meeting. Ms. Ensign indicated that the Commission can send any other revisions to her by Monday, April 24 and asked that the final draft be approved at the May 11 Human Services Commission meeting.

Commissioner Bowers asked about information on page 6 regarding the "advanced connectivity" and the commission's charge to "promote awareness of Human Services to all City of Scottsdale Citizens, as well as other City Boards and Commission." She asked were these items going to happen or are they happening now. Ms. James indicated that the items were put in by the commission that was in place in 1999. She added that the commission at the time felt the items were important and that the current commission has the chance to add, delete or enhance the entire plan based on how the commission wants to see things happen.

Commissioner Bowers said that until she became a Commissioner, she had no idea of the amazing things that Human Services does in the City of Scottsdale and that awareness is essential. She added that it would be great to have a stronger relationship with other boards and commissions.

Commissioner Bowers asked about page 7 and the reference to "Community Forums": how do citizens learn about these forums? Ms. James indicated that Human Services had the first Community Forum in 2000 and it was advertised in the newspaper, flyers were sent to boards and commissions and the city's public affairs office did publicity. At that forum, there were 200 in attendance. In 2003, the city joined with other East Valley cities and the Mesa and Valley of the Sun United Ways to hold a series of community forums and focus groups. At these forums and focus groups, questions were asked to discover the building blocks for future issues and issues that were common to all cities. At the meeting where the data was presented, there were over 200 people, including legislators and elected officials. So, community forums are usually given quite a bit of publicity; some have good attendance and some not, but if the commission has any suggestions for future community forums, staff would be excited to hear them.

Commissioner Bowers asked about what some of the brokerage agencies do; specifically, the Gleaners. Ms. James indicated that the Gleaners started out many years ago collecting extra fruit from people's yards and providing it to people who wouldn't usually have access to fresh fruit, such as folks in shelters. That practice expanded into the program we know today where for \$25 per year seniors and those with disabilities receive a "brown bag" of different foods, canned goods, sometimes fresh fruit or vegetables each week. She added that it is wonderful to see excited seniors receive fresh fruit or vegetables in their weekly brown bags, as they often cannot purchase these items with their limited incomes.

Chair Bachmann thanked Ms. Ensign for her professional and thorough work on the 5-year plan. He affirmed and the commission agreed that any other changes to the plan could be sent to Cindy by email censign@scottsdaleaz.org or by phone 480-312-2646 by April 24.

Ms. James said that the Human Services 5-year plan is an important document because for the first time the City's General Plan refers to the Human Services 5-year plan. Therefore, commissioners' contributions to the document have a big impact on the City's General Plan.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James thanked Vicki French for her work on the evening's program and Ms. Ensign for her work on the 5-year plan. She stated that commissioners should have received in the mail and invitation to the Senior Services Volunteer Recognition breakfast, which will be held at the Scottsdale Stadium in the

Charros Pavilion. She said that commissioners would have the opportunity to meet the volunteers of the Gleaners and other wonderful programs; Human Services dearly appreciates our volunteers. She said that the next Human Services Commission meeting would be held on April 27, at the new Scottsdale Senior Center at Granite Reef. She added that the tour will begin at the apartments next to the center, McDowell Village, and that commissioners will receive a map and detailed instructions before the meeting. Ms. James then turned the meeting over to Vicki French who discussed the following center updates:

Civic Center Senior Center - The New Granite Reef Senior Center is at an approximate 90% completion rate. Anticipated construction finish date is Mid-May 2006. A new trolley service will begin May 1, 2006, connecting the new Granite Reef Senior Center with the Civic Center Mall. A trolley task force is in the process of being formed. If you are interested in participating on this team, please call Tim at 480-312-2555. Many programs and services are offered at the Civic Center Senior Center, just by making an appointment in building #4. Some of the services include: Benefits Assistance, Food programs, Legal assistance, Medi-loan program and AARP job placement service. **Community Assistance Office** - The Scottsdale Housing Agency will provide a Fair Housing Seminar on April 18 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Paiute Neighborhood Center. The event is open to the public. As of April 2006, 665 individuals and families are receiving housing assistance from the Section 8 Program. Staff is continuing to work with 12 families from the waitlist. Currently, there are over 200 more clients on the Waiting List. Community Services of Arizona will be presenting the First Time Homebuyers Workshop at Paiute Neighborhood Center on Friday, April 21 from 4:00 – 7:00, and Saturday, April 22, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. **Paiute Neighborhood Center** - The Paiute Neighborhood Center, in collaboration with Scottsdale Prevention Institute, Scottsdale Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Scottsdale Police Department, hosted a Town Hall for youth and adults about the dangers of underage drinking on March 28, 2006. Over 150 adults and 100 children attended this event, which was presented in Spanish with translation service provided to English speakers. The Town Hall meeting was part of a national effort by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the Town Hall meetings is to increase community awareness by informing youth, parents and caregivers about the harmful effects of underage drinking. The Partners for Paiute Neighborhood Center hosted its annual fundraising breakfast on Friday, April 7 at the Chaparral Suites Resort. This event, attended by over 150 community members, provides awareness of Paiute Neighborhood Center programs while raising dollars to support the many community agencies that work out of the center. **Via Linda Senior Center** - Since the first week of February, the AARP Tax Aide program has been assisting low and moderate-income taxpayers with completion of their tax returns at the Via Linda Senior Center, the Civic Center Senior Center and the Paiute Neighborhood Center. Specially trained volunteer tax preparers were able to provide this free service to over one thousand taxpayers this year. The Via Linda Senior Center Winter Class session is ending. The session experienced a huge number of registrations. The center offered 67 regular and computer classes, with 1,149 people registered. In addition, the center offered 60 excursions and special events attended by 632 individuals. Via Linda Senior Center will continue to offer rewarding and interesting classes, excursions and special events during future sessions. **Vista del Camino** - Community Legal Services is offering divorce and family law workshops at Vista del Camino on the second Thursday of each month. Screening and registration can be arranged by contacting Community Legal Services at 480-833-1442. Vista del Camino recently honored 52 community volunteers and 29 City staff who helped in 2005 with Vista's senior lunch program, food bank, clothing bank, Back to School Program and holiday programs. Paiute Human Services Specialist, Martha Timberlake received an appreciation certificate for her work screening over 150 families for the Adopt a Family Program this past year. **Youth and Family Services** - The Scottsdale Student Job Career Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, from 2:45 to 6:30, at Saguaro High School. The annual student job fair will be offered in collaboration with the Scottsdale Unified School District Career & Technical Education Department. This year's new additions include several career exhibits and programs offering volunteer opportunities. Last year's Scottsdale Teen Job Fair was a tremendous success with over 400 Scottsdale students and 30 Scottsdale employers attending. We hope for a similar turnout this year. The Valley Youth Employment Coalition is gearing up for the annual East Valley Job Fair, scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Tempe Public Library. The coalition members provide services to youth living in the east valley. Though the focus is offering job opportunities

for youth of the East Valley, adults are also encouraged to attend. The Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council held its March meeting at the city's Traffic Operations center. Members first met with transportation planning staff, where they had the opportunity to provide input into the city's Transportation Master Plan. After that, they were treated to a hands-on learning experience about how traffic is monitored.

Ms. James reminded the commission that on April 25, the City Council would be reviewing and voting on council actions relative to the funding process that the commission put so much time and effort into. She thanked the commission again for all of their time and help with the funding process.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Bachmann made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

With no further business to discuss, Chair Bachmann requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Bachmann moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Berg seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISION OF THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, THE SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE NOT VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS. ONLY THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND DISCUSSION APPEARING WITH QUOTATION MARKS ARE VERBATIM.

SUBMITTED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

Recording Secretary

**Connie James
Director, Human Services**

Officially approved by the Human Services Commission on _____4-27-06_____